بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

In the name of Allāh, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

The Importance of the Duʿā Jawshan Kabīr

((دعاء الجوشن الكبير))

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It has been mentioned in the book, *Balad al-Amīn* and the *Miṣbāḥ of Kafaʿmī* that Imām ʿAlī ibn al-Ḥusain Sayyid as-Sājjidīn (prayers be upon him) related from his father from his grandfather the Prophet of Allāh (blessings of Allāh be upon him and his family) that this supplication was taught by the Angel Jibra'īl (prayers be upon him) to the Prophet (blessings of Allāh be upon him and his family) during one of the battles.

It was in one of the wars that the Prophet (blessings of Allāh be upon him and his family) had taken part in which he had a very heavy and expensive coat of armor on to protect himself. It is related that the coat was so heavy that it was hurting the body of the Prophet (prayers of Allāh be upon him and his family). In this state, the Angel Jibra'īl (prayers be upon him) came to the Prophet (blessings of Allāh be upon him and his family) and said:

"O' Muḥammad! Your Lord conveys his salutations to you and has said to take this coat of armor (Jawshan) and to recite it as this is a protection for you and your Ummah."

At this point, the Angel continued to give the Prophet (blessings of Allāh be upon him and his family) an explanation on the greatness of this supplication, which we will omit from here due to lack of space. However it suffices us to state that whoever reads this supplication with a pure intention in the **BEGINNING** of the month of Ramaḍhān, Allāh (Glory and Greatness be to Him) will grant him sustenance on the Night of Power and will create for this person 70,000 Angels who will all be busy in the praising and glorification of Allāh (Glory and Greatness be to Him) and will give this reward to the person who has read this supplication.

With this said, we see the greatness of the recitation of this supplication. In addition, it is mentioned that whoever reads this supplication three times during the month of Ramaḍhān, Allāh (Glory and Greatness be to Him) will make the hell-fire forbidden on him and would make it obligatory for that person to go into Paradise. For such a person, Allāh (Glory and Greatness be to Him) will also appoint two Angels to protect that person from all evils (in this world) and he would be in the protection of Allāh (Glory and Greatness be to Him) for as long as he is alive.

In the final Ḥadīth of this supplication, it has been narrated from Imām Ḥusain ibn ʿAlī (prayers be upon him) that, *"My father Amīr al-Mo'minīn ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib (prayers be upon him) had bequeathed to me that I should memorize and protect this supplication and write it on the Kafan (burial shroud) and that I should teach it to my family members and he highly encouraged me to read this supplication as it contains 1,000 names of Allāh and within these names is the Greatest Name of Allāh (Ism-e-Aʿḍham)."*

The late Shaykh ʿAbbās al-Qummī (Compiler of the book *Mafātīḥ al-Jinān*) states that, "From this Ḥadīth, we can derive the following points that first off, it is recommended to write this supplication on one's kafan just as the late scholar ʿAllāmah Baḥrul ʿUlūm (may Allāh grant him peace) has hinted to in a poem:

وَسُنَّ أنْ يَكْتُبَ بِالْأَكْفٰانِ   شَهٰادَةُ ٱلْإِسْلاٰمِ وَ ٱلْإِيْمٰانِ

And it is recommended to write on the Kafan of the Deceased,
The Testimony of Islām and Īmān.

وَ هٰكَذٰا كِتٰابَةُ ٱلْقُرْآنِ   وَ ٱلْجَوْشَنِ ٱلْمَنْعُوتِ بِالْأَمٰانِ

And also, the writing of the Qurʾān,
And the (supplication) of Jawshan as it is a protection from the fire of hell.

The second point we can deduce from the Ḥadīth is that it is recommended to recite this supplication in the **BEGINNING** of the month of Ramaḍhān and there are no aḥādīth that tell us to recite this supplication on the specific Nights of Power (Laīlatul Qadr). However, ʿAllāmah Majlisī (may Allāh raise his rank), in his book, **Zādul Maʿād**, under the various acts that should be performed on the Night of Power (Laīlatul Qadr) has stated that in some aḥādīth, it has been mentioned to read this supplication on one of the three nights of Power. Thus, his words are sufficient for us (may Allāh grant him a resting place in the Adobe of Peace).

This supplication has 100 sections and each section contains 10 names of Allāh (Glory and Greatness be to Him) and at the end of each section this line should be repeated:

سُبْحٰانَكَ يٰا لاٰ إِلٰـهَ إِلاّٰ أَنْتَ أَلْغَوْثَ أَلْغَوْثَ خَلِّصْنٰا مِنَ ٱلنّٰارِ يٰا رَبِّ

In the book, Balad al-Amīn, it has been mentioned that one should recite the following before each section:

بِسْمِ ٱللّٰهِ ٱلرَّحْمٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

While at the end of each section, the following should be recited:

سُبْحٰانَكَ يٰا لاٰ إِلٰـهَ إِلاّٰ أَنْتَ أَلْغَوْثَ أَلْغَوْثَ صَلِّ عَلىٰ مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ
خَلِّصْنٰامِنَ ٱلنّٰارِ يٰا رَبِّ يٰا ذَا ٱلْجَلاٰلِ وَٱلْإِكْرٰامِ يٰا أَرْحَمَ ٱلرّٰاحِمِينَ .